

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

1990

Source

SJR 55 am H

Legislative
Resolve No.

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Relating to the proposed restructuring of the National Weather Service in Alaska.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS the United States Department of Commerce issued the Strategic Plan for the Modernization and Associated Restructuring of the National Weather Service in March 1989; and

WHEREAS the plan proposes that automated weather monitoring equipment be installed in the early 1990's to replace the staff of 14 full service rural weather stations in Alaska; and

WHEREAS these weather stations, especially in Kodiak, provide critical weather information that is used extensively by aircraft operators and commercial fishing fleets, tug boats, and freighters in the North Pacific Ocean, Bering Sea, and Bristol Bay; and

WHEREAS the response to and clean up of the recent disastrous Exxon Valdez oil spill relied heavily on local weather forecasts and forecast updates; and

WHEREAS the plan does not recognize or adequately address the unique needs of Alaska;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the United States Department of Commerce to reject the proposed plan to restructure the National Weather Service in Alaska and to develop a plan to provide vital weather services that are more consistent with the needs and conditions that exist in Alaska.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush, President of the United States; the Honorable Robert A. Mosbacher, Sr., Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce; the Honorable Elbert W. Friday, Assistant Administrator for Weather Services; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.